Suicide by students

1850. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who committed suicide after examination results in different States, including Madhya Pradesh, during the last two years;

(b) whether the trend is on the increase;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for this; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to solve the 'problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) A few cases of suicides related to examinations were reported in the news papers after declaration of Board results this year. The statistics in this regard are not reported to this Ministry. However, the Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal has informed that no student is reportd to have committed suicide following the declaration of CBSE and other equivalent examination results this year and during the preceding two years. The cases relating to depression and suicides are linked to a number of factors including individual personality, fast changing social dynamics, home environment, inability of children to cope with the demands and expectations of family, peer pressure and a situation in which career opportunities are very limited in relation to mounting number of aspirants and examinations being a major determinant of career path.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already taken several steps to help the students to overcome their difficulties like:

- Arranging for a stress free environment in schools
- Deciding on Introduction of like skill education
- Elimination of overall aggregation of marks to reduce unhelathy competition among students
- Introduction of comprehensive and continous school based evaluation

- Providing facility of compartment examination in two subjects in Class X and one subject in Class XII
- Providing three chances of compartment examination for Class X and XII
- Restructuring of questions in some of the important subjects such as Science and Mathematics.
- Publication of sample question papers and making schemes to familiarize teachers and students about the nature of questions and question papers

Similarly, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has introduced measures like flexibility in the choice of subjects at the Secondary level, internal assessment, continuous involvement of schools/teachers in updating and revising the prescribed curriculum etc. to facilitate learning and reducing stress on students.

The CBSE has also started telecounselling on voluntary basis by the educationists, psychologists, psychiatrists and seasoned principals of the schools. It starts functioning before and during the examinations and also during declaration of results to mitigate and defuse the sense of anxiety and stress among the students. For 2002 examinations, CBSE had started helpline from 31 centres in and outside the country.

Recognising the importance of counselling parents in the matter the CBSE has written to all CBSE affiliated schools for organising such counselling sessions. A copy of the circular dated 10.07.2002 issued by the CBSE to all its affiliated schools giving suggestions to reduce stress and anxiety of students has been sent by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to all States/Govts./State Boards of Secondary Education for their information and use.

Adult and non-formal education centres in Maharashtra

1851. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of adult and non-formal education centres in the country particulary in Maharashtra;